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VERIFICATION IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF VERIFICATION

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Miloš KOTEREC (Slovakia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 50/61 of 12 December 1995.

2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 October 1997, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 62 to 82, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 13 to 17 and from 20 to 24 October (see A/C.1/52/PV.3-12). Structured discussions of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach were held at six informal meetings, from 27 to 31 October. Draft resolutions on the items were considered at the 15th to 17th meetings, from 5 to 7 November (see A/C.1/52/PV.15-17); action was taken on them at the 18th to 24th meetings, from 10 to 14 and on 17 November (see A/C.1/52/PV.18-24).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/269).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/52/L.30

5. At the 16th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, New Zealand, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Singapore, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay, subsequently joined by Croatia and Kazakhstan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification" (A/C.1/52/L.30).

6. At its 19th meeting, on 11 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.30 without a vote.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

The General Assembly,

Noting the critical importance of, and the vital contribution that has been made by, effective verification measures in arms limitation and disarmament agreements and other similar obligations,

Reaffirming its support for the sixteen principles of verification drawn up by the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 40/152 O of 16 December 1985, 41/86 Q of 4 December 1986, 42/42 F of 30 November 1987, 43/81 B of 7 December 1988, 45/65 of 4 December 1990, 47/45 of 9 December 1992, 48/68 of 16 December 1993 and 50/61 of 12 December 1995,

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[1] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3), para. 60 (para. 6, sect. I, of the quoted text).

Recalling also the reports of the Secretary-General of 11 July 1986,[2] 28 August 1990,[3] 16 September 1992,[4] 26 July 1993,[5] 22 September 1995[6] and 6 August 1997,[7]

1. Reaffirms the critical importance of, and the vital contribution that has been made by, effective verification measures in arms limitation and disarmament agreements and other similar obligations;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on further views received from Member States pursuant to resolution 50/61;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification".

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[2] A/41/422 and Add.1 and 2.

[3] A/45/372 and Corr.1.

[4] A/47/405 and Add.1.

[5] A/48/227 and Add.1 and 2.

[6] A/50/377 and Corr.1.

[7] A/52/269.